

(SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) Under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR), the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The rates of royalty for all minerals included in the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 are applicable across the States with effect from the date of the revision, as specified in the Central Government Notification(s).

Royalty on Coal is revised by the Ministry of Coal whereas the royalty on Chromite and Bauxite is revised by the Ministry of Mines. Royalty rates on Coal were last revised on 11.10.94 and royalty rates for Chromite and Bauxite were recently revised on 12.9.2000.

Sale of Aluminium by NALCO to Pennar Aluminium Company.

4675. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NALCO had signed an agreement with Pennar Aluminium Co. Ltd. for sale of Aluminium metal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NALCO had supplied 5850 MT metal, till 1997;

(c) how much amount is outstanding upto now; and

(d) what action has been taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has supplied a total quantity of 29589 MT between 1993 to 1997.

(c) The outstanding principal amount till now is Rs. 34.39 crore.

(d) The arbitration proceedings against M/s Pennar Aluminium

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RAJYA SABHA

Company Limited have been invoked as per the agreement to recover the outstanding amount. The arbitration proceedings are continuing before Justice Shri V. Gopalaswamy, Arbitrator, Cuttack for recovery of the dues.

Bharat Gold Mines

4676. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the unfair policies and untapped resources, the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. is suffering;

(b) what is the total length of the Gold Belt in the Kolar Gold fields; and

(c) what is the recovery rate of Gold during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The length of Kolar Schist Belt is 80 Km. Extensive exploration work had been carried out by Geological Survey of India, Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and United Nations Development Programme either individually or in collaboration with one or more agencies. However, only a few successes such as Chigargunta and a block of gold deposit in Mysore Champion Amalgamated Mine were achieved. Both these successes have been optimally utilized. The ore grade used in the last four years varied from 2.95 gms/tonnes to 3.27 gms/tonnes and the production of gold by Bharat Gold Mines Limited was uneconomical and was as follows:

(in Kg.)

Year	Production
1997-1998	514.16
1998-1999	531.28
1999-2000	433.51
2000-2001	65.061